

Timetable Measures Full Opening of Balcarras

September 2020

Following DFE guidance that the school must do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum Balcarras has made the decision to create year group bubbles.

Pupils are currently only taught in year group classes and as such reducing contact between year groups during lessons is straight forward. In order for pupils to have access to a full curriculum all year groups need access to specialist facilities such as science labs and technology rooms. Balcarras has therefore made the decision not to section off year group bubbles in specific areas of the school. Classrooms will be altered where possible to ensure desks face forward and specialist equipment will be meticulously cleaned when use occurs between year groups. As classrooms will be used by pupils from different year groups there will be increased frequency of cleaning in line with DFE guidance.

The main times contact could occur between pupils of different year groups will be:

Arrival at and leaving school.

Moving between lessons

Break time and lunchtime

The school will take the following actions to minimise contact between year groups at these times.

Arrival at school:

Years 10, 11 and 12 will have registration at usual time and arrive at 8.50.

Years 7 and 13 will start morning registration at 8.40. This shift in time has 2 functions.

- a) It staggers the start time of pupils meaning fewer pupils are arriving on site and moving to classrooms at the same time.
- b) This will provide extra pastoral support and catch up time for these year groups.

Year 8 and 9 will arrive at school at 9.00 and register in lesson 1. Again staggering the arrival of pupils to school.

Leaving School:

Year 7 will finish lesson 5 at 3.30.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 will finish lesson 5 at 3.35.

Years 11 and 13 will finish lesson 5 at 3.40.

This staggered finishing time reduces the number of pupils leaving the site at any one time.

As the majority of the pupils at Balcarras walk to school these small shifts in both start and finish time should be effective in reducing contact.

Moving Between lessons:

As stated earlier in order to provide a balanced curriculum pupils will need to move around the site. In order to reduce contact as much as possible at these times:

Teachers will release pupils from their classrooms as the bell goes. This will reduce overlap with pupils trying to enter and leave rooms at the same time.

Pupils will not be required to line up outside classrooms but will enter rooms and move to their places as soon as they arrive.

A one way system will be set up around the school and enforced by teaching staff. This will reduce face to face contact between pupils.

For any room with external access this will be the only way pupils enter and leave the classroom.

Break time and Lunchtime:

In order to reduce contact at break time and lunchtime these will be staggered. This will allow each year group to have a time allocation at a food service point and allocated play and social spaces.

Years 8, 10, and 12 will have the normal break and lunchtime.

Years 7, 9, 11 and 13 will have earlier times for break and lunch.

Years 8, 10 and 12	Lesson 1	Lesson 2	Break	Lesson 3	Lesson 4	Lunch	PM Reg	Lesson 5
	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.20	11.20 – 12.20	12. 20 – 13.20	13.20 – 14.20	14.20 – 14.35	14.35 – End time
Years 7, 9, 11 and 13	Lesson 1	Break	Lesson 2	Lesson 3	Lunch	Lesson 4	PM Reg	Lesson 5
	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.20	10.20 – 11.20	11.20 – 12.20	12. 20 – 13.20	13.20 – 14.20	14.20 – 14.35	14.35 – End time

Curriculum

Balcarras fully supports the DFE guidance that the curriculum remain broad and ambitious and that all pupils should continue to be taught a wide range of subjects as this maintains their choices for further study and employment.

Pupils in key stage 3 will continue to be taught the full range of subjects offered by Balcarras each year.

Year 10 and Year 11 pupils are expected to continue to study all of their examination subjects. We firmly believe in the strength of the broad and balanced curriculum that Balcarras offers at key stage 4 and are convinced this is the best way to maximise future life chances.

Where remote teaching is required (for pupil shielding or due to a local lockdown) wherever possible pupils will follow their Balcarras timetable with remote lessons delivered by their usual subject teachers. This will be done by further development of the schools firefly and “teams” platforms.